



# Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

# CONGLOMERATE

Monthly Newsletter of the TCG&MC  
PO Box 2082, Holland, Michigan 49422

Website: [www.Tulipcity.org](http://www.Tulipcity.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub](http://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub)

April, 2024

Volume 57, Edition 4

## 2024 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

Please join us Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for the TCGMC Scholarship Banquet. The Social gathering will begin at 6:00 PM with dinner at 6:30 PM followed by the presentation of scholarships to GVSU & Hope students. Then an amazing presentation from Karen Brzys.....AKA - "The Agate Lady".

Please bring one dish to pass unless you are bringing extra guests then bring two. This can be a main course, salad, or dessert. Beverages, plates, cups, utensils, and napkins will be provided by the Club.

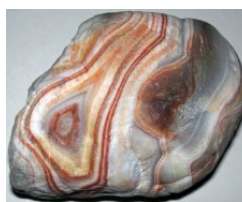
It is the club's mission to share in the joy of our hobby and to help support students who choose to follow their dreams in the field of geology. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the raffles throughout the year; YOU have helped to make those dreams come true. Please take time at the gathering to introduce yourself to the recipients and congratulate them on their accomplishments.

Our presentation by Karen Brzys will cover her 15 + years of experiences at the Gitche Gumee Agate Museum in Munising, MI, and a lifetime of love for the rockhounding hobby. Get ready to learn more about the great mysteries of Agate's and most importantly how to find those little buggers!!!! You will also have an opportunity to purchase her books, DVD's, and who knows ..... maybe a piece of her collection.



It will be an evening filled with fun, food, and jubilation. Please come dressed in your best Agate type attire and ready to win either the Rose Quartz Sphere or the Celestial Geode!! We hope to see you there and good luck!!!!

Bill McDonald (Vice President)





# Events



## FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

### 2024 TCG&M Board

President - C.H. Falstad  
cfalstad3@gmail.com

V.P. - Bill McDonald  
bobmaciv@gmail.com

Secretary - Alexandria Vanderski  
alexandria.vandervest1029@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks  
kdbricks1@gmail.com

Field Trips - Jon Mull  
solace247@yahoo.com

Historian - Betty Hoekstra  
kbhoek@att.net

Junior Club - Shari Luttkhuizen  
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Liaison - Mary Johnson  
maryjohnson299@gmail.com

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer  
rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Newsletter Editor - Jodi Miller  
jsmillerlady@gmail.com

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson  
anelson31@gmail.com

Show Co-Chair - CJ Proos  
charliejohnproos@gmail.com

Show Co-Chair - Teresa DeMol  
t.demol@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator - Michelle Lanting  
michlyngal@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Gary Katt  
kattfiles@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Patsy Williamson  
patsywi61206@gmail.com

Past President - Michael B. Larson  
mblarson300@yahoo.com

All meetings take place at the Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

4/24 **Tulip City** Annual Banquet - Wed, 6:00 pm (note time)

5/15 **Tulip City** Board meeting - Wed, 7pm

5/29 **Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm

Kalamazoo Rock, Gem, Fossil & Mineral Show -  
05/03—05/05/2024

Fri. 2-8 pm, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5

Kalamazoo Expo Center

2900 Lake Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

<https://www.kalamazoorockclub.org/>



### New Members:

**Karen and Jim Urquhart**

**Cheryl Bradfield**

**Jerry and Karen Strahan**

**Sandra and Charles Gordon**

**Jacquelyn and Rachel Zitlau**

### Banquet Raffle Drawing is Here!

The annual April banquet brings us many things, among them the joy of presenting scholarships, great food, wonderful company, an interesting program, and yes—finally the drawing of the winning tickets for the pink quartz sphere and the blue Celestine geode! Hope to see you there!

(Please note: there will be no regular raffle at this month's meeting.)

Your Head Raffleter,

Mary Johnson

## Field Trips

### Spring Break - 2024

The trip was a fantastic success! Thanks to all those who came out and I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. If you have photos, please upload them here. [2014 Spring Break](#). If that link does not allow you to upload please reach out to my cell# listed below and we'll try to figure something out. Look for a write up in next months newsletter!

### May the Fourth - Fossils and Dredgers show! - May 3 - 5 [SIGN-UP](#)

Travel Fri May 3 to St. Leon, Indiana for fossils. This is totally optional due to recent events... Stay in Maysville, KY Friday night. Saturday morning visit sites in Flemingsburg, KY, Maysville, KY and across the river to Georgetown, OH. In the mid afternoon we'll visit the Cincinnati Geo Fair which runs Saturday from 10-6 and Sunday from 11-5, at the Sharonville Convention Center. I have not picked a hotel for Saturday night yet, as we may visit Orphanage road Sunday morning, and head home.

### Memorial day weekend, May 24 - 27 - Druzy Quartz [Sign UP](#)

Friday will be travel to MO, including a possible stop in St. Louis to see the arch. A hotel south of the city along I55 will put us within reach of Valles Mines for Saturday morning. I'm still looking for something near Potossi, MO so we can collect at Haunted Ridge on Sunday.

**If you have other questions about any of these trips feel free to contact me.**

**If you are ready to sign up, please use the links included next to each trip.**

**Jon Mull (cell) 616-510-4139. Email: [solace247@yahoo.com](mailto:solace247@yahoo.com)**



**Date:** 3/13/2024 Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club Board Meeting

**Attendance Total:** 16

**Guests in Attendance:** Ken Hoekstra

**Quorum:** Yes

**Call to Order:** 7:00pm

**Board Members Present:** C. Falstad (President), W. McDonald (Vice President), A Vanderski (Secretary), K. Brinks (Treasurer), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), E. Hoekstra (Historian), S. Luttikhuisen (Jr. Club Coordinator), M. Johnson (Liaison), R. Gehringer (Membership), J. Miller (Newsletter Editor), C.J. Proos (Show Coordinator Co-Chairs), M. Lanting (Social Coordinator), A. Nelson (Webmaster), P. Williamson (Director at Large), M. Larson (Past President)

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Approved, small edit made to January General Meeting Minutes to correct recipient of raffle prizes.

**Board Member Reports:**

- President - 501c3 Approved!
- Vice President
  - March general meeting presenters requesting to begin at 7:30pm.
  - New silent auction forms! Old forms are still accepted.
- Past President - N/A
- Secretary - New digital letterhead. Check it out!
- Newsletter Editor
  - Suggestion offered to reduce the printed version of the newsletter to the first 6 pages. Current printing cost is \$40/member for those requesting a printed copy. Printed copy would include "meat" of the newsletter but may truncate hyperlinks, stories and "fluff". New format would be sealed in an envelope as opposed to bound by an outer printed address sheet.
  - Treasurer proposed an increase in the newsletter budget from \$600 to \$900 for 2024.
- Fieldtrip Coordinator
  - Chicago bus trip coming up quickly. Extra large bus is nearly full, 51 of 54 seats filled!
  - Spring break is coming up in April. Get excited.
  - Look ahead to a fossil field trip towards the end of April.
- Directors at Large - Looking forward to the March raffle.
- Treasurer
  - Chicago field trip bus paid for in February.
  - Yearly budget has been adjusted for 2024. Several factors affecting 2024s budget include Chicago bus trip, 501c3 filing costs, increase in college scholarships (GVSU & Hope Colleges) and conservative estimate for 2024 Annual Show profits.
- Historian - Digitizing continues.
- Jr. Club Coordinator - Junior's Club welcoming K. Brinks in March to present on sharks teeth! Junior's presentation will start promptly!
- Liaison
  - Reaching out to loved members from other clubs with an invite to the Spring 2024 banquet.
  - Contacting and inviting the Holland Sentinel to join the 2024 Spring Banquet.
- Membership - Currently 130 active memberships/ family memberships for 2024, with ~50 members/families that have not yet renewed from 2023. Final newsletter emailed in February, for those who had not yet renewed.
- Show Coordinators
  - Penny contest contributed to 2024 Show Poster. Look'in Good!
  - 600% increase in Facebook engagement following recent posts.
  - 2024 Show volunteers will be entered for a special "volunteers" drawing following the 2024 show.
- Webmaster
  - Social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, etc. Agreed to single it down to simply utilizing Facebook. Check TCGM Club out on Facebook!
  - Discussion concerning TCGM Club credit card.
  - Discussion concerning remote meetings. Feasibility, pros, cons, etc. In-person meetings are preferred but remote meetings are extremely desirable during inclement weather.
  - Discussion concerning purchase of a tablet for club use. Recommendations and insights **welcome!**
  - Creation of "TCGM Club Members Only Portal". Portal will contain board contacts, newsletters, maps and much more.
  - 501c3 status now allows for many updates to Google Suite and more. Many changes to **COME!**

(Continued on page 5)

**Recurring Business:**

- Rock Exchange - 2 clubs have declined (TX and NM) and 2 clubs have accepted in (MT)!
- 2024 Budget - Reviewed in Treasurer's report. Looking forward to a great 2024 Show!
- Review Of Financial Books - Wait until after April 15th.
- Roosevelt Elementary School, Zeeland - 2 volunteers have been found. 2 volunteers have been found. More volunteers are welcome!

**New Business:**

- TCGMC Trademark - Common law trademark (TM). Will now be added to All TCGM Club printed and digital logos. - RESOLVED
- TCGM Club Rock Swap/s - June 15th & August 17th in Zeeland High School Parking Lot - RESOLVED

•  
**Notes:** N/A  
**Items From Visiting Members:** N/A  
**Adjournment:** 8:44 pm  
**Next General Meeting:** 3/27/2024  
**Next Board Meeting:** 4/10/2024  
**Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By:** Alexandria Vanderski



# JUNIOR SECTION

There will not be a separate Junior meeting this month. As a club, we will be enjoying a time together at the banquet followed by the presentation of scholarships to the graduate students. They often tell us how they will be using the money, and you might even hear about a career that you would like some day. Following the presentation to the scholarship winners, we are so excited to have Karen Brzys (aka The Agate Lady) here to speak to us about Lake Superior Agates. Karen has written many books on Agates and other shoreline rocks. I'm sure you will really enjoy hearing about how and where to find Lake Superior Agates!  
 - Shari

**May's General Meeting will be everyone's favorite SILENT AUCTION. Please get your items ready to sell. We have lots of Donation items available to sell for the club, but there will be plenty of room for members items as well. We do ask that you limit your sales to 10 items per member. And as always there will be a Junior's only table if you have anything that might fit well there.**

**If you don't have sales slips already there are slips available to print on the TCGMC website under the "Members Resources" tab. Auction Sheets They are slightly different from previous years, but please feel free to use either format. Stay tuned to next month's newsletter for more details!!!!**



## Donations Committee met in April!

The Donations Committee met in April to go through a large number and variety of donations and decide where might be the best place for them to be used! Donations were assigned to many categories, including live auctions, club silent auctions for club sales, the junior program, raffles and club sales at the show. All will find new homes! Look for many exciting pieces to be showing up in the future!

Many thanks to Bill, Tanya, John and Ruby for hosting and serving a delicious lunch!

- Mary Johnson



Banquet Raffle items. One last chance to buy tickets before the drawing!

Rock jokes to tickle your petrified funny bone:

Why was the geologist sad? Because his marriage was on the rocks.  
What's a rock's favorite fruit? A pomegranate  
What do you do with a dead geologist? You barium.  
Why was the geologist changing careers? Because he had hit rock bottom.

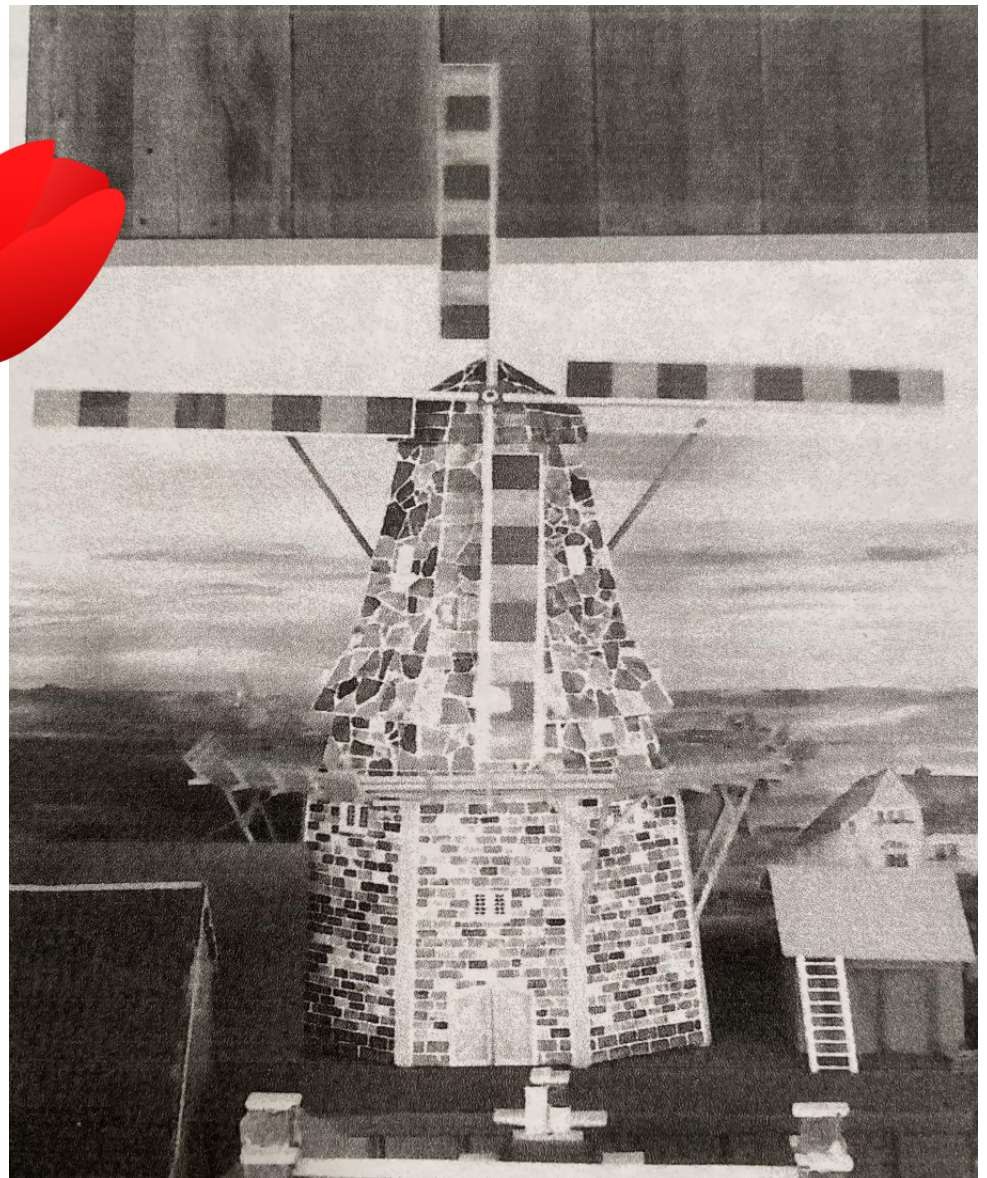
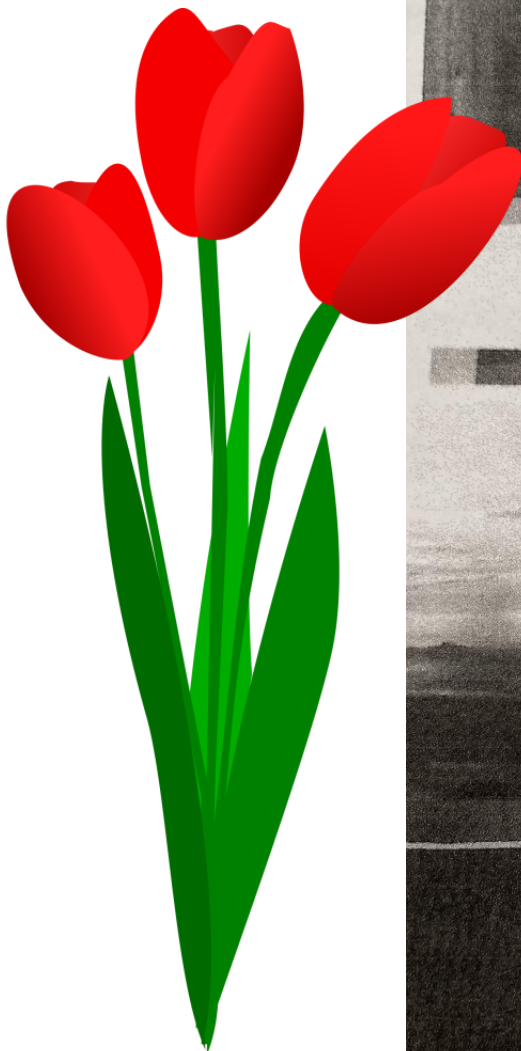




## From the pages of history:

### Scale Model of Holland's Windmill, "DeZwaan"

"Our first member-involved Club project in the 1970's was producing a scale model of Holland's iconic windmill which was brought from the Netherlands in the 1960's. The construction was designed and overseen by Ev Duester and Don Lake with enthusiastic contributions of material and labor from all. The donated material was high graded, cut and shaped. The lower half of the wooden framework was covered with 1/2" x 1" stone "bricks" of larvikite, sodalite, kona dolomite, unakite, jaspilite, banded onyx, petrified wood, etc. The upper portion was covered with Michigan's own septaria and the sails with thinly sliced Brazilian agate alternating with flow obsidian. It was engineered with an interior light and sails that rotate! The mill was featured in several club shows and written up in the May, 1980 issue of *Lapidary Journal*. It resides in the "Little Netherlands" building on Windmill Island.



## Rock Around the World

In keeping with the theme of the Annual banquet, I found this article about the World Famous Rock Food table. (used with permission from [etgms.org](http://etgms.org))



If you've been around some of the major rock and mineral shows over the years, there's a very good chance you might have seen it...the famous Rock Food Table.

A table full of rocks and minerals that look so much like food, more than a few people have tried to eat at the feast over the years because of how real it looks.

But if you've never heard of or seen this amazing display of rocks and minerals for yourself, you'll want to be sure to keep reading!

### What Is The Rock Food Table?

On the central table is a large dinner set for eight people, including a huge petrified wood ham. In the middle of the table sits a fruit bowl full of prunes, which are actually obsidian "[Apache tears](#)".

And the blueberries made of azurite, hominy made of Pearl slugs, which are made by mollusks in the mud of the Mississippi River.

And don't be fooled by the pepper in the pepper shaker, because it's actually ash from when Mount St. Helens blew its top in 1980.

The black sand from the beaches of [Hawai'i](#) is used to make the tea in the porcelain cups. A piece of fossilized shark vertebrae on the dessert table looks exactly like an oatmeal cookie.

And next to the oatmeal cookie is a box of shiny gemstone truffles that look too good to pass up.

To learn the history of the Rock Food Table, click on the link.

[Rock Food Table](#)



# Annual Spring Scholarship Banquet

This year's banquet will be on Wednesday, April 24th, and our theme is all about agates! Come to the banquet wearing rock or agate-themed clothing, jewelry, etc.! Social time will be between 6:00-6:30 and dinner will start at 6:30. We will be having a potluck dinner once again so bring one dish to pass unless you are bringing an extra guest then bring two. Plates, silverware, cups, napkins, serving spoons and tongs will be provided. If your dish needs another utensil please bring it just in case. As is our custom, we will be awarding scholarships to GVSU and Hope College geology students. This year's guest speaker is Karen [Brzys](#), aka The Agate Lady from Grand Marais, MI.





Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at [www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org)

Advertising rates for club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for 1/4 page, \$15 for 1/2 page, \$30 for full page. non-member rates are double. Make check payable To: TCG&M with ad copy to Editor.

Our club is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Holland Recreation Department. it is a member of the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The general purpose of this club is to develop interest in and increase knowledge of minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, and the lapidary arts. The objectives of this club shall be promoted whenever possible, through family participation.

Tulip City Conglomerate  
 Jodi Miller, Editor  
 11743 Orchard Park Dr.  
 Sparta, MI 49345



Background photo is a Petoskey stone.